

# Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...." 1 Nephi 3:187*

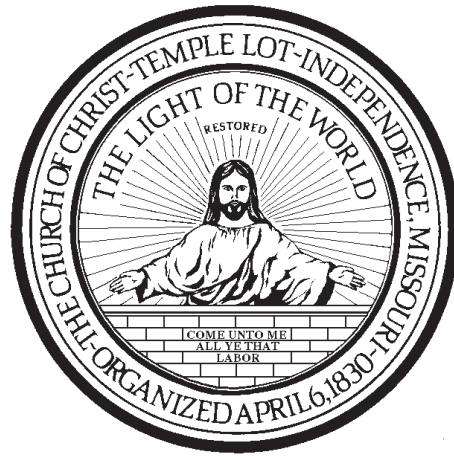
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**I**t is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.  
—Lamentations 3:22-23

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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;  
To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;

To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

Visit us at: <http://churchofchrist-tl.org/>



## EDITORIAL

# From the Editor:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior! The end of 2018 is here, regardless of your thoughts, desires or intentions.

For me, this year has been one that I won't be able to forget. It has been one where I lost my job and am still praying and seeking God's plan for me in my future. And so, as you could imagine, this year has had stress, mental trouble, discouragement and all that often goes with such troubles. However, this has been a year of great blessing. Without such trials my family and I have experienced we would have had no opportunity to enjoy such amazing blessings and mercy from God. So often this is how life works... a trial presents a blessing.

2 Nephi 1:81-82: *"For it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things. If not so, my first born in the wilderness, righteousness could not be brought to pass; neither wickedness; neither holiness nor misery; neither good nor bad."*

As I visited with a dear brother at our Phoenix Reunion we concluded this: difficult doesn't mean bad. The world doesn't think so, but we know better. And without the difficulty we rarely have our eyes open to see the blessing. So, I am caused to consider that as I ponder this unforgettable year for me.

We expect that during this time of year we will be encouraged to reflect on the past. Certainly we should be reflecting all the time, but as this year concludes we ought to look back. What were your failures this past year? What were your victories? Did you experience more of

one of these? Have you discussed these things with our Lord in the solitude of prayer, whether in prayer of gratitude or prayer for strength? Take a few moments this season to consider these things.

I have appreciated your emails and comments about the work we have been endeavoring to present in the *Zion's Advocate* this year. I would be remiss without offering my thanks to those who have been contributing. I will again remind you that I welcome your contributions.

In looking through past publications going back half a century, I note that at one time it was routine for the readership to offer questions on scripture or doctrine which would be answered and published. I would like to start a column for this very purpose. And so, if you have questions you would like answered and published, please email them to us and I will endeavor to have them answered by various ministry from within the church.

As I conclude, I want to remind you of my email address - [cfczaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:cfczaeditor@gmail.com), and also our online publication at [advocate.churchofchrist-tl.org](http://advocate.churchofchrist-tl.org).

Jude 1:24-25: *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."*

*God bless you brothers and sisters,  
Elder Aadam Yates, Editor*





## ARTICLE

# The Christ of Christmas

**Apostle A. J. Moser**

It's easy to forget the Christ of God in the Christmas season, or at least to put Him to one side while we busy ourselves with meals, guests, decorations and presents. There is lots of driving; going to the grocery store, relatives' homes and church. School programs and church programs abound. Then there are the naysayers...Bah, humbug! A curse on all this commercialism! This is not what God had in mind! So says the critic. However, perhaps the greatest sin we commit is to pass by so many people that we hardly notice at all. We fail to see all those people that Jesus came to save while we busy our minds and tongues both for and against the Spirit of Christmas. So who is the Christ of Christmas?

"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" Isaiah 53:2.

That short scripture is the subject of this article... If you passed by Jesus, would you know who He was? Could you tell by what He wore? Would you know Him by His hair? My belief is that Christians have an image in their minds of the way He should look; it's probably wrong. The scripture says there is nothing we would see that we would desire. You could pass by Him and He would be unnoticed. My personal belief is that His is the most average of all men; average height, weight and looks. I don't believe He stood out like perhaps a man of great worldly power would stand out. Worldly power attracts the attention of everyone. That is the subject of all profane history. Position, eloquence, wealth or perhaps military conquest are what so many history books are filled with. In the case of Jesus there is nothing the world would want from Him.

Jesus offered no wealth or power to His followers. In fact, He offered them persecution, imprisonment and confronta-

tion. Who would follow that? Only those who wanted the words of life would follow. Only those who felt His love and holiness would follow. Many of those people gave their lives when they were faced with the ultimate sacrifice. After Jesus began to minister at the age of thirty He owned nothing other than the clothes on His back. It even gives the impression that He wore the same clothes for nearly three to four years. Did Mary and Martha launder his clothes? It's hard to say. They may have done that when Jesus stayed in their home. He did have a sufficient undergarment if He followed the customs of the day, which I'm sure He did. There are so many missing pieces to His life. Maybe that is because they didn't even exist.

Maybe there are only few details of a worldly nature to share other than what we read in the New Testament.

So, if you saw Him on the street would you know Him? Would you turn away from Him because you would think, "Here comes a man of the street, unwashed, with a spot on his garment from some meal of some other day." He may have had a little soil around the edges of his garments. Remember, He was often found sitting and talking. Was the surface where He sat always clean and dirt-free? What would we see if we could have seen Jesus then?

The average height of men around the world through history has been between 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 9 inches. What has the average man looked like through the millennia? Nothing truly handsome would be noticed in the average man. I think Jesus was the quintessential average man. Today, the average man can be seen everywhere and not noticed. He could work on a house as a carpenter. He could drive a truck. He could be on a bus sitting next to you. He could be in the car beside you on the road, standing on a street waiting for the crosswalk light to change, dining at a restaurant with friends or any number of other places. Yet, from Him came the words of everlasting life and the blood

that washes mortals clean from their sins.

Other than that there is nothing we would want from Him if we passed near Him.

So now we come to each one of us. Can you be just an average person and content with what God has made you? Can you work in life unnoticed or forgotten? Can you live with the fact that you are nothing really special in the eyes of the world? Our place in the world is to be average in every way except spiritually. It is true that others were very much noticed by the world for worldly things. There were people noticed for great worldly things who were God's servants. However, today let Jesus have all the glory and ourselves be unnoticed for worldly things. Then how do we serve God without being noticed for worldly fame, position or power?

First, we can give to all around us an example of our noble born-again status. We can be a blessing wherever we go by not passing by all those average people without seeing them.

We can be royal in trustworthiness, helpfulness and Godly love. We can mourn with those who mourn and rejoice with those who rejoice. We can truly be present wherever we are placed. We can participate in every moment living a life for the Christ of

Christmas.

There are people with average lives and problems on all sides. They have friends and families, fears and sins. You and I have the words of life. We have the pathway to the tree of life and God's love. We have the greatest gift above all gifts. We have His Spirit with us. We have the true Spirit of Christmas. We have the Christ of Christmas to share with our families, our friends, strangers and our enemies. Let's be humble enough to share the Christ of Christmas.

Let's be squarely in the middle of all humanity, and reachable. Let the world touch you when they need Jesus. Let the world see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.

Don't be known for crossly spoken criticisms even though there are times when the truth must be known. All facts are not the truth, Jesus is the ultimate truth. Represent Him this Christmas season...

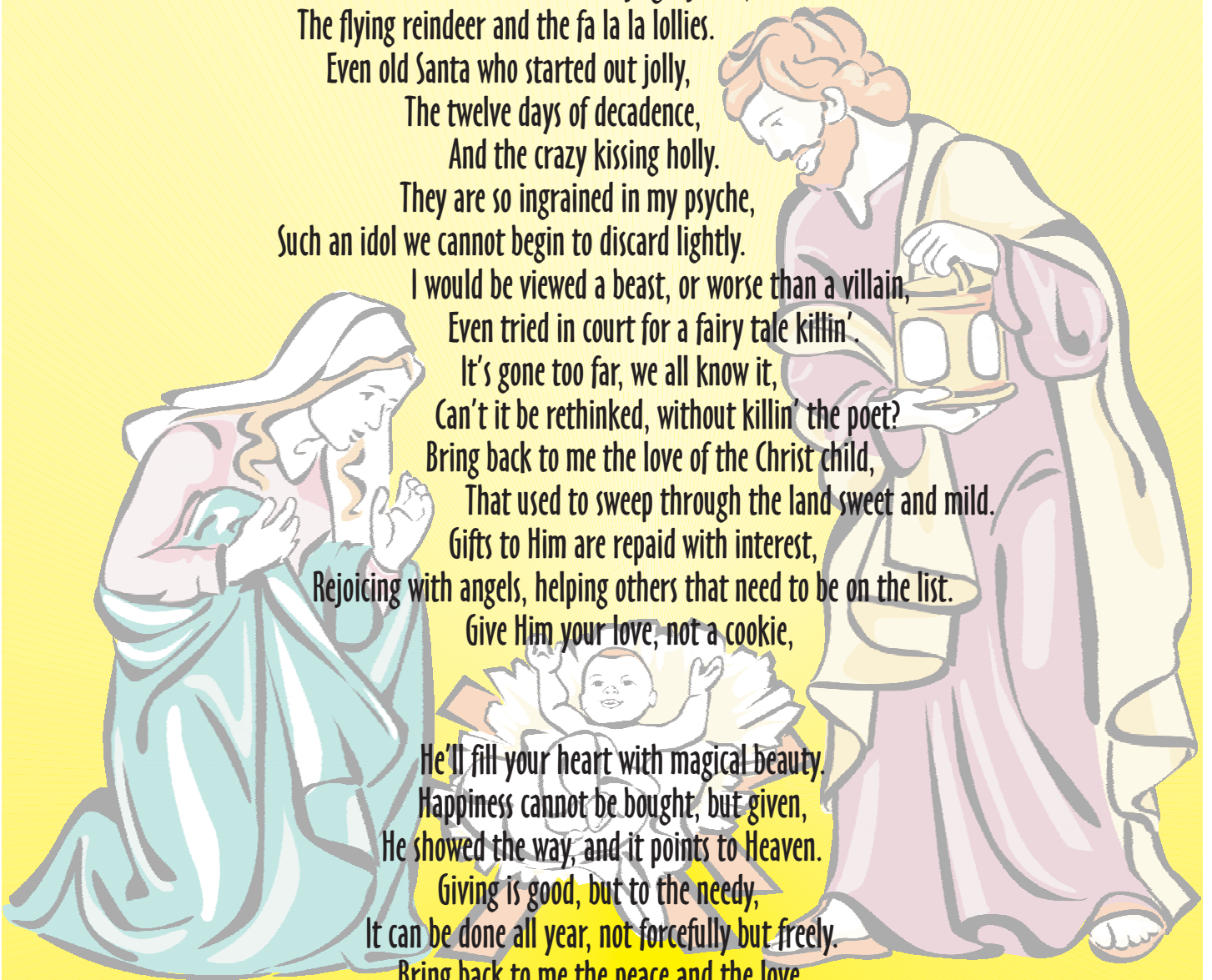
"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" Matthew 11:28-30.



POEM

# Bring Back To Me

Please throw out the jingle jollies,  
The flying reindeer and the fa la la lollies.  
Even old Santa who started out jolly,  
The twelve days of decadence,  
And the crazy kissing holly.  
They are so ingrained in my psyche,  
Such an idol we cannot begin to discard lightly.  
I would be viewed a beast, or worse than a villain,  
Even tried in court for a fairy tale killin'.  
It's gone too far, we all know it,  
Can't it be rethought, without killin' the poet?  
Bring back to me the love of the Christ child,  
That used to sweep through the land sweet and mild.  
Gifts to Him are repaid with interest,  
Rejoicing with angels, helping others that need to be on the list.  
Give Him your love, not a cookie,  
He'll fill your heart with magical beauty.  
Happiness cannot be bought, but given,  
He showed the way, and it points to Heaven.  
Giving is good, but to the needy,  
It can be done all year, not forcefully but freely.  
Bring back to me the peace and the love  
That Mary and Joseph and the angels by faith had begun,  
It's what God wanted when He sent us His Son.  
The Lamb of God, worthy to be praised . . . have a blessed season.



Kathy Cloyd, 2018

# Loneliness

Steven Gill

My hope and prayer is to encourage curiosity and studying as a means by which God will lead you in His will. I will begin with a testimony: every year I spend time praying about and looking for materials God would have presented to the young people the Sunday before camp. This year God put an article on my newsfeed about loneliness, and I knew this was the subject to be presented. After that morning class I was recounting to my wife how the class went. Afterward, she said I should write an article and submit it to the *Advocate*. Then at the Missouri Reunion Brother Yates came up to me and asked when he could expect something from me for the *Advocate*. As the word of God says in II Corinthians 13:1: *"In the mouth*

*of two or three witnesses shall every word be established."* So, I will share with you what I learned about loneliness.

The article that appeared on my newsfeed was an op-ed titled, *"God may have put you in a lonely place for an incredible reason,"* by Rick McDaniel FoxNews.com. As the article points out, the effects of loneliness on a human are well documented, and none of them are good. The article inspired me to study loneliness in the word of God and re-frame it in my mind as a tool of positivity. I like to start my studies by defining any key words of my subject, and with that loneliness is defined as, "solitude, retirement, seclusion from company." I looked for every variation of loneliness I could think of in the concordance for both books, and found only one verse referenced. Jacob 5:43-44 says,

*"That the time passed away with us, and also our lives passed away, like as it were unto us a dream, we being a lonesome and a solemn people, wanderers, cast out from Jerusalem; Born in tribulation, in a wilderness, and hated of our brethren, which caused wars and contentions; wherefore, we did mourn out our days."*

The negativity reflected in those verses echoes the negativity science puts on loneliness. God even said in Genesis 2:18, *"it is not good that the man should be alone...."* Does loneliness have to be negative?

To answer my question I first have to find words to look up that relate to or mean the same thing as lonely or loneliness. The word I found through the Hebrew and Greek dictionary at the back of the Strong's Concordance that best fit the criteria was, "wilder-

ness.” Exodus chapters 13-19 recounts the trials and blessings the children of Israel experienced traveling in the wilderness of Sinai after freedom from bondage in Egypt. Moses left the children of Israel alone to talk to God on the mount, and they chose themselves and thus received the Taskmaster Law. The gospels of Matthew and Mark recount Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness. Jesus, while in the wilderness, when tempted chose God’s word and set an example of overcoming. The difference between these two stories is the motivation behind their actions. When action is driven by emotion we are thinking of ourselves, but when action is driven by the heart of a man we are thinking spiritually. The big picture example I see in these two stories of whether loneliness is good or bad depends on the heart of the man experiencing the loneliness.

In Proverbs 21:19 Solomon writes: *“It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.”* I have found in my life that the full truth is the wilderness is better than a contentious and angry person regardless of gender. The scripture at the end of the book of Jacob I mentioned earlier reflects the words of Solomon. In the class where my

co-teacher brother Shaughn Sprague and I talked about loneliness, he chose to share a fantastic example of the potential loneliness has for good, and possibly what Solomon meant in Proverbs 21:19. His example is found in the Book of Mormon, Enos chapter 1. There we find a story of a man who went into the wilderness alone to hunt but did something completely different. Verses 4-6 say,

*“Behold I went to hunt beasts in the forest; and the words which I had often heard my father speak, concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints, and the words of my father sank deep into my heart. And my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication, for mine own soul; and all the day long did I cry unto him; yea, and when the night came, I did still raise my voice high, that it reached the heavens.”*

What Enos received was a remission of his sins, verse 7, and a promise from God, verses 14-16 and 26, concerning his brethren. The experience of Enos was supported by Christ in Matthew 6:6:

*“But thou when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy father which is in secret, and thy father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.”*

This scripture tells me that solitude, or loneliness, should be used for the purpose of prayer. These scriptures show a positive result of being alone if one chooses God by praying, and even meditating on the things of our souls. Since the word “meditating” has a different meaning in the world I will give the scriptural definition. Meditate means, to “ponder or converse with oneself” as given in the Hebrew and Greek dictionary in Strong’s Concordance. Enos’ activity in the forest was meditating, and the result was a conversation with God. These examples of intentional solitude have the commonality of being closer to God by getting away from distraction. When we are around company our focus is on them instead of the still small voice. Psalms 46:10:

*“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

Being apart allows us to be still and listen, which is a key element of a conversation. God said He will be exalted in earth; we are made of earth, so we need to listen so God can be exalted in us. When I entered the wilderness of southern Illinois where I grew up, I felt a connection to God and often found inspiration and answers I could not hear in the day to



day activities of life. I would go fishing with a canoe, not for the fishing but for the quiet, peace, and solitude. Seclusion, or solitude, is a way to tithe time to God so He can work and be exalted because of our willingness to be brave and humble by listening to God.

One of the most challenging moments of loneliness I encounter is when I am in a group. It may sound strange, but sometimes we are in a group of strangers or a group doing something we don't enjoy or agree with, leaving us feeling alone. When I think about that situation I think of Aaron in chapter 32 of Exodus, when the congregation demanded of him to *"make us gods which shall go before us..."* in verse 1. He was alone, confronted with this large group, and in his isolation of mind and spirit he made a bad choice. His answer to Moses makes me think he was trying to delay, or give the congregation a price higher than they were willing to pay by asking for the gold off the wives' ears. Regardless of his motives, God's wrath was directed at all, suggesting Aaron's heart was not evil but his actions were related to Matthew 5:25, *"Agree with thine adversaries quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him...."* This story is one where an individual was iso-

lated not physically, but mentally or spiritually. In that situation I would have done the same as Aaron; complied with their wishes to keep peace and save myself for the moment. This is why a strong relationship with God is important...to help us be influencers or leaders in a group rather than feeling isolated.

Concluding, I want to share a time when my loneliness reached the level of despair, and the miracle I received from God. My company sent me to Germany for two weeks to do a new machine install. I could not speak German, the company denied the rental car, I could not figure out how to make phone calls, the company credit card I had was not accepted at any location in the area, and the two men I was assigned to work with spoke no English. By Wednesday evening I was feeling very alone, isolated, and scared. As I lay in bed at my hotel that night my mind was filled with thoughts, of "what ifs" that all had terrible outcomes. I was despairing about how I was going to accomplish my job. To help with understanding what God did it is important to note that my hotel had no air conditioning, and I was there at the end of June so I kept the windows open while at the hotel. As I lay in bed thinking of every-

thing that could go wrong with no answers for what to do about it I heard sounds outside that caught my attention. The sounds were a choir practicing at a nearby church, filling the air with hymns. Even though they sang in German I recognized some of the hymns, including *"Amazing Grace."* As I listened I was filled with an overwhelming peace, knew that God was there with me, and started to cry. I had no answers for my fears, but I knew with all my heart that it was going to be alright. The rest of the time was wonderful; there were challenges, but solutions presented themselves at every turn and the required tasks were completed without distress. I even had the opportunity to discuss the Gospel with a gentleman at the facility there!

Through the reading I have done and my own experiences, I believe loneliness is a state of mind we choose. Any dark moment, emotional or physical, is a dark moment only if we choose to see it that way. Dark moments can be filled with miraculous blessings when we realize that God is always with us and we let Him talk and lead. May God bless each of you on your walk with Him.

## ARTICLE



# FAITH

## Elder Bob Hedrick

**T**here is a story I heard recently about a man who was the first to walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope. As the story goes, he walked across the 1,100 foot span, 160 feet above the water several times, each time adding an additional challenge. He walked the narrow rope carrying various objects, riding a bicycle, even taking a stove and frying and eating an omelet. This delighted the spectators who were amazed by the feats of this daredevil.

After pushing a wheelbarrow full of potatoes across the gorge on the tightrope to a roar of applause, the acrobat addressed the excited crowd. He asked if they believed he could carry a person across the gorge in the wheelbarrow. The crowd responded enthusiastically that they absolutely believed he could perform the feat. The man then asked who would be willing to get into the wheelbarrow. The crowd

fell silent. None were willing to get into the wheelbarrow. They had eagerly said they believed he could do it, but their actions showed that they did not.

Faith is a unique attribute in that it requires something to have faith in, and also requires an act to demonstrate evidence of its existence. This event provides not only an illustration of faith, but an opportunity for each of us to examine our faith in God.

We say that we have faith in God, but what do we know about God? King Benjamin describes Him as Omnipotent (Mosiah 1:116). This means that God is all-powerful. But even an all-powerful God placed limits on Himself. He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). He cannot change (Mormon 4:82). He cannot take away free will (2nd Nephi 1:117-121).

From the Scriptures we can also learn that God is all-knowing. He can see the past, the present, and the fu-

ture (Isaiah 46:10), because He is not bound by the rules of time (Alma 19:38). He is able to discern the thoughts of men (1st Chronicles 28:9, Hebrews 4:12).

The Lord is also all-good (Psalms 34:8). Sometimes, however, we have a faulty understanding of "good." We expect good to mean that we won't be uncomfortable. We will never experience pain or suffering. As an illustration, a dentist frequently makes us uncomfortable, inflicts pain, but caring for our teeth is ultimately a good thing. Coaches and athletic trainers cause their athletes to suffer during practices in order for them to become stronger and ultimately successful on a field of competition. In a similar way, God sees the big picture and may from time to time allow us to suffer in order to become stronger and be able to obtain the future He has planned (Romans 8:18). The point of our lives in this world isn't comfort, but training and



preparation for eternity (Alma 16:228).

These characteristics of God we understand from scripture form the basis of the object of our faith. The people who watched the tightrope walker were being asked to put their trust in a man, someone who could make a mistake, who could fail, who could jeopardize their life. Placing our trust in any man puts us in a place of danger. If a man (like the tightrope walker) falls, we fall, too. The omnipotent, unchanging, all-knowing, all-good God of the universe will never fall and will never drop us. We can safely climb into and ride in God's wheelbarrow.

Now that the object of our faith has been clarified, how do we demonstrate evidence of its existence? The Apostle James addresses this issue in chapter 2 of his epistle. In verses 14-26, he illustrates how simply saying you have faith is insufficient. Simply put, acts of obedience are what complete faith (v22). Whenever we do what the Lord commands, living our lives according to the instructions found in the scriptures, we are providing evidence of our faith. It is the way we live that others see our faith in God and, ultimately, the way we glorify our God (Matthew 5:16).

In the Book of Mormon, when Alma is talking to the Zoramites, he uses the illus-

tration of a seed to demonstrate both the power of the word of God and how faith plays its part. This illustration is found in chapter 16, verses 149-173. He likens the word to seed which is planted in the ground as an act of faith by a farmer. When the seed sprouts and begins to grow it confirms the goodness of the seed and justifies the faith of the farmer.

In a like manner, when we obey a commandment such as tithing, it is an act of faith. When we are blessed by having our needs provided by God, it confirms that our faith was justified. But just as the seed couldn't grow until it was planted and watered, our faith can't grow until we actually apply it by obedience to God's commands.

Alma also illustrates the necessity of continual care and repeated nourishing of the seed which has been planted. It's not a one-time event. After the seed sprouts, it must be continually watered and maintained in order for it to grow and eventually produce fruit. He warns against neglecting the plant, noting the result is that it will die and you will "*never pluck of the fruit of the tree of life.*" If we fail to nourish our faith, it too will begin to diminish and eventually die. Nourishing our faith involves daily communication with God, personal study of the scriptures and regular church attendance and atten-

tion.

The beauty of Alma's illustration is the simplicity of the promise; "*a tree springing up unto everlasting life.*" Yes, it takes work. Yes, it takes effort. But he encourages us that we have the opportunity to "*reap the rewards of your faith, and your diligence, and patience, and long suffering, waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you.*"

The biggest impediment to faith is our pride and desire for control. We want to be in the driver's seat of our lives instead of allowing God to be the boss. We decide what we want, what will bring us happiness, and what we should do to obtain it. We may exhaust ourselves trying, only to find our lives empty. We may obtain what we wanted but have found that it didn't provide the joy we had hoped. It's like climbing into our own wheelbarrow, trusting in ourselves to navigate our life across the gorge on a thin rope.

Our faith is in the promises made by our Lord, because of who He is, the qualities of His revealed character. We provide Him evidence of our faith by obeying and applying His commandments in our life. We show our faith by being willing to get into God's wheelbarrow.



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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The General Sunday School Association (GSSA) is providing portions of lessons for several age groups on a common topic. Please visit the Church of Christ's Audio Visual Aid (AVA) committee website at [www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net) and click on the "Resources" tab to view all complete lessons and studies for children and adults. Contact Susan Porter at: [porter\\_susan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:porter_susan@sbcglobal.net), or 9 Market Street, Middleville, MI 49333, for more information. The GSSA has a private Facebook group for all members. If you would like to be added contact Betsy Trudgen at [trucooking@yahoo.com](mailto:trucooking@yahoo.com).

# TITHING, GIVING, SHARING

## A Penny for Jesus

By Sister Janeen Addie

**A penny for Jesus, a penny I give,**

**For Jesus gave His life that I may live.**

**He loved me, so I love Him.**

**A penny I'll give time and again,**

**to show my Jesus how thankful I am:**

**That He gave His life for me and my friend Sam.**

**My penny shows Him that I love Him too,**

**And that I'm willing to do;**

**All that He asks me to!**



In the Book of Alma, chapter 10, verse 8, it says:

“yea, even our father Abraham paid tithes of one tenth part of all that he possessed.”

This means that for every ten pennies he had, he gave one to Jesus. We should do the same. We also give gifts to Jesus by doing good things for our church, our friends & family. Young children can practice with pennies or other objects to learn what 1/10 of something looks like. With older children, talk about using percentages; 10% is ten parts for every hundred, or one tenth of a group of items. (There are lots of online math help sites.)



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Jacob's Story– A Lesson on Tithing by Heidi Jones

**Read:** “Stairway to Heaven” in the Action Bible by Sergio Cariello or a similar version from another children’s Bible. Also read Genesis 28:22.

**Activity #1:** Act it out the action rhyme with the kids. It would be a fun one to do in the front of the congregation as well! **Optional Materials:** Small, kid-safe step-ladder, angel wings, building blocks or bricks.

**Activity #2:** An introductory lesson on tithing.

**Materials:** Chocolate gold pirate coins; ten for each child.

1. Give each child ten “coins.” (Don’t eat yet!)
2. Now ask each child to give you back one coin.
3. Tell the children that just like you, God gives us all that we have. Just like Jacob did, He wants us to give back a small amount to show our love and thankfulness to Him.
4. Re-read Genesis 28:22.
5. Eat your chocolate coins!

Tithing lesson written by Apostle Brian McIndoo for advanced teens & adults.

**I. PAY TITHING ?GENERALLY CALCULATED AS BEING 10 PERCENT OF YOUR INCREASE**

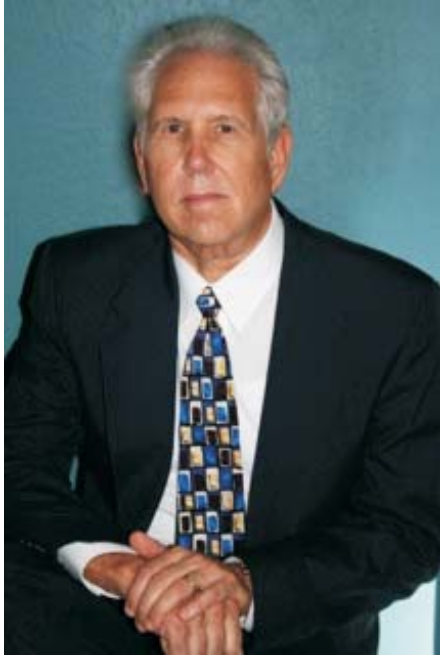
- Hebrews 7:1?9 – “To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all;...” Alma 10:8,9 ?“And it was this same Melchisedec to whom Abraham paid tithes: yea, even our father Abraham paid tithes of one tenth part of all that he possessed.”

**PAYING TITHES WAS PRACTICED THRO UGHOUT TIME, AND IS GIVING BACK TO GOD A PORTION OF WHAT HE**

- **HAS GIVEN YOU.** Genesis 14:17?20 – “And he gave him tithes of all.” Exodus 23:16 ?19 – “The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the Lord thy God.” Leviticus 27:30 ?33 – “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's...” Deuteronomy 12:6 – “And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, “ Numbers 18:24?28 – “But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the Lord” Nehemiah 13: 10 ?14 – “Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries.” Proverbs 15:16 – “Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith” Amos 4:4 – “... bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes ” Malachi 3:7?11?“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.”

- **To get the rest of this lesson, go to [cocsermons.net](http://cocsermons.net) >Resources>Adult lessons. There are 2 pages for this lesson online.**

# LAYING ON OF HANDS



**Apostle Brian E. McIndoo**

**T**he author who wrote to the Hebrews admonished them to move towards perfection, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ. Certainly, this admonishment was not asking the Hebrews to abandon these principles, which are later enumerated; rather, he is telling them that these truths should already be understood, applied to their lives and ingrained in them, as they should be in all those who call themselves Christians.

Hebrews 6:1-3: *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on*

*unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.”*

According to *New Oxford American Dictionary* – the word *principle* as used in this reference means: “a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior, or for a chain of reasoning:”

This passage in Hebrews 6 is often referred to as the Principles of the Gospel, of which there are six. There is much to be said about each of these fundamental truths; however, in this article we are going to focus on one: laying on of hands.

This principle, also being an ordinance of Christ’s gospel, has many aspects. It is an ordinance that is to be performed only by those called of God, ordained by one with authority to the office of an Elder. These Elders are to use this authority, to lay their hands upon others, to bless and to serve the congregations of believers in the following ways:

## **1** To ordain other men, called of God, to the various offices of the ministry.

As with all manners of government and business, it requires authority to give authority, unless taken by force, which is not the way of God. We see examples of this very practice in the scripture. One in particular that comes to mind is found in Acts 13. Here in Antioch the church was meeting in fasting and prayer, and among the congregation were prophets as well as Paul (Saul) and Barnabas. The Holy Spirit spoke, calling out Paul and Barnabas to occupy as ministry. In verse 3 it states: *“And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”*

This practice of one with authority ordaining others to have authority can also be found in the Book of Mormon:

Alma 4:1: *“And now it came to pass that after Alma had made an end of speaking unto the people of the church, which was established in the city of Zarahemla, he ordained priests and elders, by laying on his hands according to the order of God, to preside and watch over the church.”*



## 2 The healing of the sick.

As we consider this opportunity to be healed, we need to understand that the elders must exercise their faith as they perform this ordinance. Those who are sick also have a duty to exercise their faith, and seek the elders to present their need or infirmity before God to obtain the blessing. James puts it best:

James 5:14-15: *"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."*

We must not overlook the added benefit to exercising our faith under the hands of the Elders, for it says not only will God heal us, but also our sins will be forgiven.

## 3 The blessing of little children.

Unlike some other Christ-based religions that practice infant baptisms, the Church of Christ adheres to scripture which tells us before anyone can be properly baptized they must first repent and have a change of heart by having no more desire to do evil. Scripture also tells us that little children have no need of repentance because they are perfect in Christ:

Moroni 8:11-16: *"Behold I say unto you, that this thing shall ye teach, repentance and*

*baptism unto they which are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children: and their little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins. But little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world; if not so, God is a partial God, and also a changeable God, and a respecter to persons; for how many little children have died without baptism. Wherefore, if little children could not be saved without baptism, these must have gone to an endless hell. Behold I say unto you, that he that supposeth that little children need baptism, is in the gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity; for he hath neither faith, hope, nor charity; wherefore, should he be cut off while in the thought, he must go down to hell. For awful is the wickedness to suppose that God saveth one child because of baptism, and the other must perish because he hath no baptism."*

Being alive in Christ, they are loved dearly by Christ. For this reason, in both the old land of Palestine and the new land of the Americas, Christ took the little children in his arms and blessed

them:

3 Nephi 8:23-26: *"And when he had said these words, he wept, and the multitude bear record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them. And when he had done this he wept again, and he spake unto the multitude, and saith unto them, Behold your little ones. And as they looked to behold, they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were, in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about; And they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them, and the multitude did see and hear, and bear record; and they know that their record is true, for they all of them did see and hear, every man for himself;"*

One might ask why we as a church practice this ordinance today; the answer is we are commanded to do all those things of which Jesus gave us the example:

3 Nephi 12:34: *"Verily, verily I say unto you, This is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do, that shall ye also do;"*

## 4 The conferring of the Holy Ghost.

Receiving the Holy Ghost is a

necessary and a scriptural part of the ordinance of Baptism:

2 Nephi 13:24: *"For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost."*

Most humans like the idea of getting gifts. If you doubt that, consider the vast amount of money spent on gifts at Christmas time! The Holy Ghost is a gift from God that works marvelous things in our life; helping us walk in the path of righteousness that we witnessed to God and before the world we were willing to do as we entered into the waters of baptism. The disciples of Jesus were concerned and worried about their future, not knowing what they would do without Jesus there to give them constant instruction and guidance. Jesus told them, *"I will not leave you*

*comfortless."* He went on to explain:

John 14:26-27: *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

In Christ's restored church, the Elders are commissioned to lay their hands upon those who have repented and been baptized by water. As they lay hands upon them, and call upon the Lord, this gift of the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon them as an abiding Comforter. It is a gift abiding within to direct their paths and guide them through this life to

help keep them in the right course that leads to eternal life:

Moroni 2:1-3: *"The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands upon them. And he called them by name, saying, Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer; and after that ye have done this, ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles. Now Christ spake these words unto them at the time of his first appearing; and the multitude heard it not, but the disciples heard it, and on as many as they laid their hands, fell the Holy Ghost."*

## NOTICES

### CCEG

The Church of Christ Email Group is a church member-only (and spouses, even if not a member) email communication group existing to keep the general church membership informed about prayer needs, blessings, and more. It does not have officially elected management (member volunteer only), although it regularly functions for the Church of Christ for missionary news and various announcements, like state rallies and reunions.

If you would like to become a member of CCEG, or if you are an existing member and are not currently receiving emails as expected, please email the CCEG manager at:

**RHEA HOUSKNECHT**  
CCEG Manager  
[ccegmgr@icloud.com](mailto:ccegmgr@icloud.com)

### THE HOPE of ZION

The Board of Publications has made avail-

able a copy of the report from the Committee to Study Zion entitled, *The Hope of Zion*. Contact **Elder Robert Oldham** at [rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net), or any member of the Board.

### AVA WEBSITE

On the Church of Christ AVA web site you will be able to access media such as archived sermons in video and audio formats, past issues of *Zion's Advocate*, searchable Bible and Book of Mormon studies and Sunday School lessons. Real time live streamed sermons are broadcast every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. central time, which can also be accessed from the site. We invite you to take a look and discover what a useful tool this site can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. The address is [www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net).

### CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE

The General Church Correspondence

Committee would like to extend the opportunity for any who wish to communicate through written correspondence to contact one of the following three committee members:

**DEBBIE VOGEL** (Chairman)  
403 w. Colonel Drive  
Independence, MO 64050  
**SUE PORTER**  
9 Market St.  
Middleville, MI 49333  
**PAT MCCANN**  
18808 N. 30th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85050

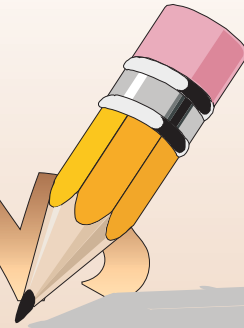
### PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.



NEWS

# PHOENIX LOCAL NEWS



**W**hile Summer may be drawing to a close and cooler temps finally reaching Phoenix, we certainly haven't slowed and have been keeping busy as usual!



The Welfare committee has had no shortage of goals to tackle, including drives to collect water for the homeless, toys for children and school supplies as well. A Senior Coffee get-together was held on September 15th with seven of our 80-and-up club in attendance. Brother Andrew Brown started off the morning with some words of encouragement and spiritual wisdom, and Aadam and Katie Yates performed a special. There was also a Senior Supper held on October 20th, with a nice dinner consisting of two types of smoked chicken, roasted potatoes, salad, and delicious homemade cheesecake. To our senior Brothers and Sisters in Christ: we love you and want you to know how much we appreciate you!

On September 1st-3rd, we held the annual Scripture Camp up at the Ranch. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and services held outdoors in the cooler temps of northern Arizona, with mountain views by day and campfires and sleeping under the stars by night. There was also a Parents' Retreat on September 29th, and was a time in which parents could dive deeper into the scriptures, learn more about God's plan for us as parents and



spiritual mentors, and not to mention take a well-deserved break from having to watch the little ones!

The Young Peoples' groups have been keeping busy as well; studying scriptures and playing games and activities indoors to stay out of the last bit of Arizona's brutal heat for the year! But, with temps cooling down the Intermediate and Junior Young Peoples' groups had an adventuresome outing to Tolmachoff Farms on October 27th for a Pumpkin Patch day. With eleven children in attendance, it was a fun time of corn mazes, pedal cars and bouncy houses. What better way to get in the Fall spirit!

Our church family is always growing, and this time we are very happy and excited to announce the arrival of Riley Walker Herd! He was born on September 22 at 11:13 AM, measuring in at 22 inches long and a whopping 8lbs 9oz! Aaron and Niki Herd are the proud parents, and we congratulate them and wish them many years of happiness as their family continues to grow.

The next few months are going to be an exciting time for the Phoenix Local as we prepare for Reunion and the upcoming Christmas season! Please keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers as they travel from all over the country (and the world) to come fellowship and worship our Lord and Savior with us during this spe-



cial time. Also, please remember to keep in your prayers those in search of employment opportunities, physical healing, and the Lord's guidance.

*God Bless,  
Katie Ely*



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